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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01

IO-10 /069 W
---------- 079884
R 071954Z JUL 75
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1022
INFO AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY LISBON
USMISSION USUN
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
AMCONSUL BORDEAUX

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 17537

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, SP, FR
SUBJECT: SPANISH FOREIGN MINISTER'S VISIT TO PARIS

REF: PARIS 16178

1. QUAI SOUTHERN EUROPE DEPUTY DIRECTOR GELADE BRIEFED EMBOFF JULY 3 ON PARIS VISIT OF SPANISH FOREIGN MINISTER CORTINA JUNE 25-27. RECURRENT THEME OF THIS VISIT WAS SPANISH INSISTENCE ON BEING CONSULTED ON MATTERS OF INTEREST TO THEM, RATHER THAN BEING ISOLATED. GELADE SAID THIS INSISTENCE WAS IMPLICIT IN VIRTUALLY ALL SUBJECTS CORTINA DISCUSSED WITH FOREIGN MINISTER SAUVAGNARGUES, PRIME MINISTER CHIRAC AND PRESIDENT GISCARD D'ESTAING, AS WELL AS BEING EXPLICIT IN CORTINA'S PUBLIC STATEMENTS. GELADE ADDED THAT FRENCH ARE ENTIRELY PREPARED TO INCLUDE SPAIN WHENEVER POSSIBLE IN BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL CONSULTATIONS AND BELIEVE ISOLATING GOS IS COUNTER PRODUCTIVE.

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2. AS A RESULT OF DISCUSSIONS IN PARIS, CORTINA SAID

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GOS NOW RECOGNIZES THAT PARIS IS FAVORABLE TO MADRID'S ASPIRATION FOR CLOSER RELATIONSHIP TO EEC. GELADE SAID THAT THERE IS NOW AGREEMENT ON TEXT OF SPAIN-EC ACCORD WHICH WOULD INCLUDE A CLAUSE ON FURTHER EVOLUTION TOWARD EC MEMBERSHIP, PERHAPS VIA ASSOCIATE STATUS. REGARDING CSCE, CORTINA SUGGESTED REPRESENTATIVES AT ANY SIGNING CEREMONY SHOULD HAVE PLENIPOTENTIARY CREDENTIALS; GELADE INTERPRETED THIS AS GOS DESIRE TO BE COVERED FOR ANY EVENTUALITY INASMUCH AS SUCCESSION PROBLEM IN MADRID MIGHT ARISE AT ANY TIME.

3. REGARDING CONVERSATIONS ON UN AFFAIRS, GELADE SAID SPAIN WOULD ABSTAIN ON ANY VOTE CONCERNING STATUS OF ISRAEL IN UN. CORTINA EMPHASIZED THAT SPANISH CANDIDACY FOR PRESIDENT OF UNGA PREDATED THAT OF LUXEMBOURG PRIME MINISTER THORN. CORTINA REITERATED MADRID'S KNOWN POSITION ON SPANISH SAHARA, INDICATING THAT RELATIVE INFLEXIBILITY IS DUE TO GENERAL FRANCO'S PERSONAL INVOLVEMENT, ACCORDING TO GELADE. WHEN SAUVAGNARGUES ASKED HIM HOW SPANISH SAHARA PROBLEM MIGHT BE SOLVED, CORTINA SAID NO SOLUTION IS IN SIGHT AND GOS WOULD HAVE TO SEE HOW THIS MATTER IS HANDLED AT UNGA. GELADE INDICATED THAT SPAIN DOES NOT SEEM INTERESTED IN ADVICE FROM GOF, WHICH FEELS, ON BASIS OF ITS OWN EXPERIENCE IN DECOLONIZING, THAT ONCE DECISION TO DECOLONIZE IS TAKEN, METROPOLE SHOULD ATTEMPT TO GAIN MAXIMUM CREDIT WITH THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES RATHER THAN PERMITTING CONFRONTATIONS..

4. GELADE SAID CORTINA HAD BEEN MARKEDLY OPTIMISTIC ABOUT RENEWAL OF MILITARY AGREEMENTS WITH USG. CORTINA

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 PARIS 17537

SEEMED CERTAIN THAT RESULTS WOULD BE POSITIVE AND
THAT SPAIN WOULD THEREBY CONTINUE MAKING MAJOR
CONTRIBUTION TO NATO.

5. REGARDING BASQUE PROBLEM, CORTINA TOLD FRENCH
THIS COULD DESTROY OTHERWISE FRIENDLY RELATIONSHIP
BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES. HE INSISTED FRANCE MUST
FIND WAY OF STOPPING BASQUES FROM USING FRENCH
TERRITORY TO SUPPORT TERRORISM. FRANCE REPLIED THAT
IT HAD TIGHTENED UP ITS FRONTIER CONTROLS AS A RESULT
OF WHICH ARRESTS HAD BEEN MADE. FRENCH ALSO EMPHASIZED
THAT SPAIN WOULD HAVE TO GUARD ITS SIDE OF FRONTIER
MORE CAREFULLY. CORTINA NOTED THIS AND ALSO DENIED
THAT SPANISH AUTHORITIES OPERATE ON FRENCH TERRITORY
AGAINST BASQUE TERRORISTS.

6. COMMENT: GELADE'S RECITATION IMPLIED THAT CORTINA
VISIT WAS PUBLIC RELATIONS EXERCISE DESIGNED TO SHOW THAT GOS
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IS FLEXING ITS MUSCLES AND TAKING STRONG POSITIONS
WITH ITS MAJOR PARTNER. THEME OF SPANISH DESIRE TO BE
CONSULTED MORE FREQUENTLY CAME OUT CLEARLY IN CORTINA'S
PUBLIC STATEMENTS, INDICATING THAT THIS WAS INTENDED
PRIMARILY FOR CONSUMPTION IN SPAIN. IT WOULD
NOT APPEAR THAT ANYTHING CONCRETE CAME OUT OF
CORTINA'S VISIT. FRANCE IS ONE COUNTRY WHICH HAS
LONG SINCE INDICATED ITS WILLINGNESS TO HELP SPAIN
BREAK AWAY FROM ISOLATION FRANCO'S RULE
HAS INCURRED.
RUSH

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